



## The Paskwa Fire (HWF030) | June 19, 2023, at 10:00 AM

The top priorities for managing the Paskwa Fire are full extinguishment of fire in Fox Lake, protecting Garden River, and working toward securing the fire perimeter to prevent significant fire spread. The Paskwa wildfire is currently 96,582 ha.

Smoke is lingering in the community of Fox Lake and ground crews are still working in the community actioning smokes with bucketing operations. Today, crews will be working to extinguish hotspots and remove danger trees along within the community as they're spotted. These crews will be moved to action any surface fire if it arises in other areas of Fox Lake. We're expecting heavy winds today and this could affect safety on the line, crews will be strategically placed to handle these hazards.

The crews that were working in the oxbow performing mop-up duties on the northeast edge have completed their work and have been moved to the Davidson fire. The area of 5th Meridian and within the oxbow is still a high-priority area that we will monitor to prevent fire spread north across the Peace River and to protect the community of Garden River.

The southeast flank of the fire spread into the edge of Ruis Lake creating a natural fire break and extinguishment zone and hasn't moved in the past few days.

Firefighters will work to extinguish hotspots from Little Red River moving to Muskeg Creek enforcing the perimeter as this area is still not contained at this time. Aerial scanning was completed for the area and data will be analyzed by the operations team. Scanning helps to get a better location of hotspots for firefighters and bucketing operations.



Work has been completed in Fox Lake to extinguish 75m (250 ft) perimeters around structures, the removal of danger trees is ongoing. Crews have moved to the roadways to extinguish hotspots 250 ft outwards. Heavy equipment is working around larger hotspot areas where there is still potential for fire spread when conditions are right.

The high-volume water system, water lines, and sprinkler systems on structures are in place in the community of Garden River and structural firefighters will be available as needed. These are proactive measures to ensure the community is prepared should the fires move closer to Garden River.



Parks Canada and Alberta Wildfire have come together in Unified Command, allowing these two agencies to work together closely and share resources to protect the community of Garden River.

Many aerial scans have been completed over the course of this wildfire event and the information we receive from the data gives the operations team a better plan of where the deep burning hotspots in the area are located. Under these cool temperatures we are able to pro-actively action these hotspots that might not be visible on the surface with a combination of handtools and water.

## **Davidson Lake fire (Wildfires 8, 9, 11, 13, 14) – Wood Buffalo National Park – June 19**

The Davidson Lake Fires and Paskwa Wildfire are being managed by both Parks Canada and the province of Alberta, under Unified Command.

Yesterday, crews worked south along the perimeter of Fire 14, from where the Old Peace Point Road meets the edge of the fire, containing a section of the fire that had spread west across Trident Creek. With assistance from helicopter buckets, they were able to prevent any further spread to the west. Dozers and crews worked north along the fire edge and should tie back into Trident Creek by the end of the day today. Helicopters will continue with bucketing support today.

Fire behaviour is expected to pick up because of strong northerly winds and fire specialists anticipate potential for some increased fire activity and smoke.

Heavy equipment made good progress yesterday on the northern park boundary guard, they have about one more kilometre to go before completion.

Crews continued doing their daily maintenance run to service the structure protection set up on values near the fire. Yesterday, they were also able to locate an old cemetery that was pointed out to us at the Garden River community meeting on the 16th and will take appropriate actions to protect it.

Davidson Lake Fires were last estimated at **91,079** hectares and remains **6.2 km from the community evacuation trigger line**.

For more information on this wildfire please visit [Wood Buffalo National Park wildfire updates - Wood Buffalo National Park \(canada.ca\)](#)

### **Evacuation alerts and orders**

- Currently, Garden River remains on evacuation alert.
- Little Red River Cree Nation has an evacuation order in place for the community of Fox Lake.
- For evacuation information, please visit the Little Red River Cree Nation's Facebook page and [Alberta Emergency Alert | Alberta.ca](#)



## Background

The Paskwa fire was detected on May 2, 2023. It extends along the south side of the Peace River from the community of Fox Lake into Wood Buffalo National Park and is approximately 8 km south of the community of Garden River. The wildfire is estimated at 96,582 hectares. This fire is classified as out of control (OC).

## Resources

There are currently 146 personnel supporting the Paskwa/Davidson fire response consisting of wildland and structural firefighters, incident management staff, and Paskwa Fire Base support staff. There are also 12 helicopters and 19 pieces of heavy equipment dedicated to the Paskwa/Davidson fire.

## Weather Forecast | Paskwa Fire (HWF030)

Today, a daytime temperature of 18°C degrees with winds out of the north-northeast at 30 km/h gusting of 50 km/h. Relative humidity will be 35% which is less moisture than we've seen in the last few days and we're preparing to see an increase in fire behavior this afternoon on the wildfires.

## Current information on wildfires in Alberta:

- [Wildfire.alberta.ca](https://wildfire.alberta.ca) or download the [Alberta Wildfire Status App](#)
- **High Level Forest Area** Updates: [srd.web.alberta.ca/high-level-area-update](https://srd.web.alberta.ca/high-level-area-update)
- Follow Alberta Wildfire on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.
- For fires in **Wood Buffalo National Park**: [wildfire updates](https://parks.canada.ca/woodbuffalo) (parks.canada.ca\woodbuffalo)

**To Report a wildfire, call 310-FIRE (3473)**